

American

NEWS & VIEWS

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President Bush, South Korea's Roh Call for Resumption of Six-Party Talks

Agree control of troops in South Korea will not become political issue

By Jane Morse

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- President Bush and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun September 14 called for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks to end North Korea's nuclear weapons programs.

Following their meeting at the White House, Bush told reporters during a joint press conference with Roh, "We reaffirmed our commitment to the Six-Party Talks, so that we can peacefully deal with the North Korean issue."

"The president and I agreed," Roh said through an interpreter, "to work together for the re-start of the Six-Party Talks. As for specific steps that we can take before the resumption of the six-party process, our ministers and staff will be consulting closely."

The talks involving North and South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the United States stalled in November 2005 when North Korea refused to return to the negotiating table to discuss implementation of a joint statement of principles it signed on September 19, 2005. In the statement, North Korea made a commitment to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs, to return to the nonproliferation treaty on nuclear weapons and to reinstate safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Bush said that North Korea's recalcitrance "has really strengthened an alliance of five nations that are determined to solve this issue peacefully."

The U.S. president added that stability in the region is in the best interests of Kim Jong Il, the leader of the Democratic People's Republic, but that the most important incentive is for Kim to understand "there is a better way to improve the lives of his people than being isolated."

"If he [Kim] were to verifiably get rid of his weapons programs, there is clearly a better way forward," Bush said.

TROOP COMMAND IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Both Roh and Bush expressed their desire that the issue of wartime command of U.S. and South Korean troops in the Republic of Korea (ROK) not become politicized.

"We agreed that this is not a political issue; this is an issue that will be discussed through the working level talks and

we will continue to work together on this issue," Roh said. "I agree with the president," Bush said, "that the issue should not become a political issue."

There are three commands in the Republic of Korea: The ROK and U.S. Combined Forces Command, the United Nations Command and the United States Forces Command. Despite different missions, all are committed to the safety of South Korea.

At issue is the wartime command of the Combined Forces Command, currently a shared responsibility. Seoul wants to transition from the combined and equally shared command structure to a structure where ROK forces are singularly and independently commanded by the ROK government during wartime, putting U.S. forces in a supporting role.

Bush said that he has talked to the U.S. secretary of defense "about making sure that the issue is done in a consultative way and at the appropriate level of government, and that's how we will end up deciding the appropriate transfer of operational authority."

Decisions about the placement of U.S. troops and the size of the contingent will be made in consultation with the South Korean government, Bush added. "We will work in a consultative way at the appropriate level of government to come up with an appropriate date."

"My message to the Korean people," Bush said, "is that the United States is committed to the security of the Korean Peninsula.

Currently, the United States has fewer than 30,000 troops in South Korea - and that number is expected to be reduced to 25,000 in the next two years.

Those U.S. service personnel remaining will be relocated to Pyeongtaek, south of Seoul, and the U.S. Army 2nd Infantry Division will be relocated to installations south of Seoul's Han River.

VISA WAIVER

Bush said that Roh "strongly advocated the need for there to be a visa waiver for the people of South Korea who want to visit the United States.

"I assured him," Bush said, "we will work together to see if we can't get this issue resolved as quickly as possible."

Text: President Bush Proclaims National Hispanic Heritage Month

Activities, programs, celebrations to be held Sept. 15 through Oct 15

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
September 14, 2006

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH, 2006

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Americans are a diverse people, yet we are bound by common principles that teach us what it means to be American citizens. During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we recognize the many contributions of Hispanic Americans to our country.

Through hard work, faith in God, and a deep love of family, Hispanic Americans have pursued their dreams and contributed to the strength and vitality of our Nation. They have enriched the American experience and excelled in business, law, politics, education, community service, the arts, science, and many other fields. Hispanic entrepreneurs are also helping build a better, more hopeful future for all by creating jobs across our country. The number of Hispanic-owned businesses is growing at three times the national rate, and increasing numbers of Hispanic Americans own their own homes. We continue to benefit from a rich Hispanic culture and we are a stronger country because of the talent and creativity of the many Hispanic Americans who have shaped our society.

Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have also shown their devotion to our country in their military service. Citizens of Hispanic descent have fought in every war since our founding and have taken their rightful place as heroes in our Nation's history. Today, Americans of Hispanic descent are serving in our Armed Forces with courage and honor, and their efforts are helping make America more secure and bringing freedom to people around the world.

As we celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, we applaud the accomplishments of Hispanic Americans and recognize the contributions they make to our great land. To honor the achievements of Hispanic Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 100-402, as amended, has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating September 15 through October 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2006, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH

War on Terrorism Is a "Long War," Counterterrorism Expert Says

Diplomatic, political and economic efforts needed

By Michelle Austein
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Successful counterinsurgencies usually last a decade, according to counterterrorism expert Bruce Hoffman in a USINFO webchat September 14.

This means the U.S. War on Terror is still in its early days, he said.

"Even five years into the war on terrorism, we are just beginning to accept the notion that this is indeed a long war," Hoffman said. The National Strategy for Combating Terrorism, updated in September by the White House and U.S. National Security Council, reflects this, he said. The update recognizes that "we need a much richer mix of countermeasures – in addition to military force – diplomacy, political reform and economic development – to prevail against this threat," Hoffman said.

"Counterinsurgency depends as much on diplomatic initiatives, political reform, economic development and information operations as it does on military force," Hoffman added.

While the United States is safer today, the al-Qaida terror network continues to find new ways to attack and the threat of terrorism continues despite progresses made. "We face an enormously adaptive and innovative enemy," Hoffman said.

Although the war on terrorism is more than a battle to capture just one person, it still is critical to capture al-Qaida

leader Osama Bin Laden, Hoffman said. "It would be a significant blow to terrorist morale worldwide and it would also serve justice on the perpetrator of the worst terrorist attack in history."

President Bush and most other senior U.S. leaders have emphasized that this war is not a war on Islam or against Muslims. However, many Muslims are not convinced that this is the case, Hoffman said. "More work needs to be done in this respect and bridges built and maintained," he said.

Hoffman is the director of the Washington office of the RAND Corporation, a nonprofit policy analysis organization, where he also holds the RAND Corporate Chair in Counterterrorism and Counterinsurgency.

U.S. Envoy Updates United Nations on Progress, Challenges in Iraq

Global community must redouble commitment to help rising democracy, Bolton says

By David McKeeby

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – The international community must redouble its commitment to the people of Iraq to support their continued progress toward a prosperous democratic future and to help them face the challenges ahead, says Ambassador John Bolton, U.S. representative to the United Nations.

In a September 14 statement to the U.N. Security Council, Bolton reported that the 29 countries that make up Multi-National Force – Iraq are making progress in fulfilling their mandate under U.N. Security Council resolutions 1546 and 1637 to assist the Iraqi government in building effective governing institutions and security forces. His statement accompanied the presentation to the Security Council of a quarterly report on the situation in Iraq.

On the political front, Bolton praised the first 90 days of Iraq's democratically elected unity government for taking several "promising steps" to develop legitimate political, economic and governmental institutions in Iraq, including:

- The Iraqi Council of Representatives' adoption of an accelerated session, allowing them to make progress on implementing the provisions of the new Iraqi Constitution;
- The launch of the "International Compact with Iraq," a new initiative co-chaired by the Maliki government and the United Nations -- with strong support from the United States, the United Kingdom and other donor countries -- to focus the international support on helping Iraq develop a

framework for key management and economic reforms; and

- Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's "National Reconciliation and Dialogue Project," which seeks to reconcile past inequities and rally Iraqis around the principle of equality without sectarian divisions to establish the basis for national unity.

"The Multinational Force and the international community stand with the Iraqi people as Prime Minister Maliki's government continues its efforts to promote national dialogue and inclusion, and strive tirelessly to deliver improvements in security, stability, and quality of life to the Iraqi people," he said.

IRAQI SECURITY PROGRESSING TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Training Iraqi army and police units to assume primary responsibility for protecting their fellow citizens is also key to securing Iraq's future, the ambassador said, adding that, with coalition support and training, the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) continue to grow, improve and conduct more independent operations each day.

Multinational forces continue to train, equip and mentor the ISF and to transition security responsibilities to the Iraqi forces as proficiency allows and conditions permit. The transitions, which are evaluated on an area-by-area basis, are incremental to ensure an effective and successful transition of security responsibilities.

A number of other steps have been taken toward greater security.

One such step is Iraq's Baghdad Security Plan, which aims to reduce levels of violence in the capital and includes initiative "Operation Together Forward." The effort, planned and led by Iraqi Security Forces, seeks to eliminate violent elements from the city's most troubled neighborhoods through work with local authorities to identify and fund projects to empower area residents to rebuild their communities.

Also, the transfer of security responsibility for the country's southern Muthanna province from the coalition to a provincial governor and the civilian-controlled Iraqi Police Service has enhanced security in that area. Bolton added that a similar transfer in neighboring Din Gar province is among several expected to follow in the near future.

In addition, on September 7 the Iraqi prime minister began assuming command responsibility for Iraq's army and police, starting with the country's navy, air force, and the

8th Army Division. Additional divisions will be transitioned Iraqi planned and led to the government's full control under the Iraqi Ground Forces Command over the next several months.

SECURITY CHALLENGES REMAIN

Iraq's future, which Bolton described as a "work in progress" continues to be threatened by insurgents, terrorists and other violent militants who are "intent on carrying out attacks against Iraqi civilians, officials, and security forces, with a goal of destabilizing the legitimately elected government of Iraq and denying the Iraqi people the democracy and promise of a better future that they have chosen through free and fair elections."

Four of Iraq's 18 provinces – Baghdad, al-Anbar, Salahad Din and Diyala – experience the vast majority of violent attacks. Insurgents and extremists deliberately are heightening sectarian tensions, resulting in a rise in killings, kidnappings and attacks on civilians, and an increase in the numbers of internally displaced persons. Sectarian tensions pose "one of the most significant threats to security and stability in Iraq," Bolton said.

However, "terrorists have failed to advance their primary objectives, which include derailing Iraq's political process and widening their political support among the Iraqi people" because "the Iraqi people continue to reject overwhelmingly violence as a means to drive political change," according to the U.S. envoy.

Iraq's neighbors, Bolton said, must do more to help Iraq stop the violence. Specifically, he called on Syria to curb the flow of money and weapons into southwestern Iraq and for Iran to stop providing "munitions and other support" to extremist groups.

Iran Sanctions Would Not End Diplomacy, U.S. Envoy Says

Schulte addresses International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria

By Vince Crawley

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.N. Security Council should impose sanctions on Iran as part of ongoing diplomacy aimed at convincing the government in Tehran to halt its uranium enrichment activities, a senior U.S. envoy told the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on September 13.

"Iran's current course is a deep concern to us all, and the

time has come for the [U.N.] Security Council to back international diplomacy with international sanctions," Ambassador Gregory L. Schulte said in a statement to the IAEA Board of Governors. Schulte is the U.S. ambassador to international organizations – including the IAEA -- in Vienna, Austria.

Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the IAEA, on September 11 presented his latest report to the IAEA's Board of Governors and provided documentation that Iran continues to develop nuclear material that could be used in weapons. The Iranian government has insisted it has the right to pursue a peaceful nuclear program for energy purposes, but many other nations have expressed concern that Iran is not cooperating with international bodies that regulate nuclear programs.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said September 12 that the Iranian nuclear program would be discussed on the sidelines of the upcoming U.N. General Assembly in New York by the foreign ministers of the six countries that have led international diplomacy with Iran. "The time is coming very soon when we're going to have to vote on a Security Council resolution," she told reporters.

The six nations – China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States – have offered a package of incentives designed to allow Iran to pursue peaceful nuclear energy programs.

"Sanctions will not signal an end to diplomacy," Schulte said in his statement to the IAEA. "Rather, they would be an essential element of diplomacy to signal to the leaders of Iran that their continued defiance of the international community will not be tolerated."

Diplomats said that Iran, during September 9-10 meetings with European negotiators in Vienna, tentatively offered to suspend uranium enrichment for two months in an effort to resume negotiations with the international community. On September 14, Iran's envoy to the IAEA, Ali-Ashghar Soltanieh, said he is ready to publicly debate Iran's nuclear activities with his U.S. counterpart, Schulte.

In the U.S. statement, Schulte said the latest IAEA report provides extensive details on Iran's pattern of failing to disclose its nuclear activities to the international community.

"We are convinced that Iran is aggressively pursuing technology, material, and know-how to build nuclear weapons," Schulte said.

"As of April 2006, Iran had already produced approximately 120 tons of uranium hexafluoride," he said.

"It is undertaking a new conversion campaign involving 160 tons of uranium ore. The two campaigns will produce sufficient uranium hexafluoride, if successfully enriched, to produce enough highly enriched uranium for approximately 40 nuclear weapons."

The United State does not want to prevent Iran from developing a peaceful nuclear energy program, he said, "but Iran's pursuit of nuclear energy must be in conformity with Iran's commitments and international obligations."

United States Seeks To Double Trade with India

Ambassador Mulford says relationship will be pivotal, but reforms are the key

By Lea Terhune

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington - Implementation of the civil nuclear agreement between the United States and India would signify "an enormous increase in generating capacity that will help India meet its growing demand for electricity without relying on dirty, carbon-emitting coal, improving India's economy and the lives of all Indians," U.S. Ambassador to India David C. Mulford says.

Mulford outlined U.S. economic goals to delegates at the third Indo-U.S. Economic Summit in New Delhi on September 13.

Nuclear cooperation also would add to the expanding business transactions between the United States and India. "The U.S. is the largest Foreign Direct Investor in India, a considered bet on this country's future. U.S. investment here continues to grow, and we want to accelerate it," Mulford said, adding that the goal is "doubling Indo-U.S. trade in three years."

The United States and India are building "an historic partnership," and U.S. policy "is premised on the belief that no other relationship will be more important in shaping the world of the 21st century," Mulford said.

The U.S.-India civil nuclear agreement calls for U.S. civil nuclear technology to be made available to India for generating domestic energy. This step is contingent on India's designating some of its nuclear facilities for civilian use and opening them to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspection, bringing it into the nuclear nonproliferation mainstream. India is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"India's isolation would end and it would be able to pioneer a new era for its energy needs," Mulford said. A

change in U.S. law is needed to implement the agreement and congressional approval is necessary, a process that is under way.

The agreement also is dependent on the successful conclusion of negotiations on a bilateral agreement between India and the United States, the establishment of a safeguards agreement between India and the IAEA and a change in the rules of the Nuclear Suppliers Group to allow civil nuclear commerce with India.

Mulford also cited partnerships in information technology, services and manufacturing, which he said are seeing healthy growth and many business entities -- not just multinational corporations -- are involved.

"There is a substantial body of capital waiting to be invested in India if the right conditions materialize," Mulford said. Those conditions require a steady pace of economic reforms, which, he said, have lagged in recent months. He cautioned, "There are serious economic costs to any loss of momentum on the reform front." He said India is still among the most difficult countries in which to do business, ranked at 134 out of 176 by the World Bank.

To sustain India's current strong economic growth, Mulford said, improvement is most critically needed in energy, infrastructure and agriculture. In addition to implementing the civil nuclear agreement, sharing technologies for clean coal, power transmission and electrical production could enhance India's energy sector. Better roads, building standards, telecommunications and efficient delivery systems are essential. Also important are policies such as liberalization of financial institutions to enable greater foreign and domestic private-sector investment opportunities, market-sensitive regulatory regimes and better governance.

"The pace of future growth in India will hinge upon the continued sound economic policies of the Indian government and of those state governments who are seriously committed to attracting foreign trade and investment," he said.

U.S., China Discuss Energy Security, Environmental Protection

Two nations sign agreement to share information for another five years

By Jane Morse

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs Karen A.

Harbert and Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy Jeffrey Jarrett are in China to discuss energy cooperation between the United States and China.

In Beijing, Jarrett signed five-year agreement extensions with the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology on September 14 to share information in areas critical to improving energy security and environmental protection.

"The U.S. and China are taking a clear leadership position in a worldwide effort to come to practical and constructive terms on the need for energy security and reductions of greenhouse gas emissions that stem from global energy use," Jarrett said.

Jarrett and Vice Minister Shang Yong of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology also signed five-year renewals of existing agreements for extending ongoing cooperation and information-sharing in power systems technology, oil and gas technology, energy and environmental control technologies, and climate science, according to a DOE September 14 news release.

The agreements between the United States and China set out specific areas of activity aimed at improving oil and gas supply, deploying cleaner more efficient energy technologies for coal reserves and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through advanced pollution controls.

An existing agreement on clean fuels technology, which includes coal-to-liquids and hydrogen, was discussed but an extension of that pact was not needed, DOE said.

U.S.-CHINA ENERGY POLICY DIALOGUE

In Hangzhou, Harbert participated in the second round of talks under the U.S.-China Energy Policy Dialogue to promote global energy security, protect the environment and encourage economic growth and trade between the nations.

The U.S.-China Energy Policy Dialogue between DOE and China's National Development and Reform Commission was created in 2004 as a forum to discuss areas for energy cooperation between the two countries. During the dialogue meetings, Harbert and her Chinese counterparts discussed key energy policy issues, such as the U.S. Energy Policy Act of 2005, which covers modernization and energy-efficiency standards, China's goals under its 11th five-year plan, and other energy efficiency, resource conservation, and renewable energy programs, including development of biofuels in both countries.

Through the dialogue, the two countries will share information on energy security measures, such as strategic

petroleum reserves, energy policies and strategies to attract needed investment in infrastructure development and expansion. The dialogue also provides a forum in which to exchange views on a variety of energy issues of mutual concern including the efficacy of market and regulatory measures to achieve greater energy efficiency and reduce environmental impacts.

Harbert also traveled to Beijing where she will meet with officials of China's Ministry of Science and Technology as well as with China's Atomic Energy Authority. Harbert will take part in an industry round table with the U.S.-China Business Council.

"Cooperation between our two countries to meet today's energy challenges will assist in the transformation of how both countries produce and consume energy," Harbert said.

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